

# **TOWN OF MONTVILLE**

## **Office of the Mayor**

310 Norwich-New London Turnpike  
Uncasville, Connecticut 06382



### **Testimony of Ronald McDaniel**

**Mayor, Town of Montville**

**Before the Public Safety & Security Committee**

**In Support of SB 1090, An Act Concerning Gaming**

**March 17, 2015**

Senator Larson, Representative Dargan and members of the Public Safety and Security Committee, good afternoon; my name is Ronald McDaniel and I am the Mayor of the Town of Montville. I am here today in support of SB 1090, An Act Concerning Gaming.

By way of background, I have lived in Montville for the past 21 years with my wife and two sons. My work history includes two years as a legislative budget analyst for the Office of Fiscal Analysis here in Hartford, and since 1997, I have been the owner of Common Grounds, LLC, a condominium management firm. As a chief elected official, small business owner and budget analyst, I know first hand just how critical it is to pass the legislation before you today.

As the chief elected official for the host town of the Mohegan Tribe, it is important to note that we have built a strong and enduring relationship together, based on regular and ongoing communication about issues that affect both the town of Montville and the Mohegan Tribal Nation. I believe we have been good neighbors to one another, and our

mutual respect and communication has only served to strengthen that relationship.

Today, we are in crisis mode, searching for ways to position our state for the impending competition that we face in the coming months. We must act responsibly to stem the tide of patrons who will bypass Connecticut for the newly planned casinos in New York and Massachusetts. Our neighbors have witnessed the shared success of the Native American Gaming operations in Southeastern Connecticut and are ready to get in on the action, targeting Connecticut's patrons specifically.

With almost 10% of Montville's working population directly employed by Mohegan Sun, and thousands more connected to its success and that of Foxwoods, I do not believe we can stand by and jeopardize these quality jobs or economic stability they afford our town, region and state.

When the future of Electric Boat hung in the balance, our elected officials at the local, state and federal levels stood together to protect jobs. Well today, the future of another industry in Connecticut is being threatened and we must again stand together to protect our constituents and their livelihood.

By passing SB 1090, we will take an important step toward preserving the jobs and financial benefits that exist in our region as a direct result of the success of Mohegan Sun and Foxwoods. Failure is simply not an option. I hope we can stand together as elected officials knowing that we have done everything in our power to ensure the best possible future for our constituents. SB 1090 will help achieve that goal. Thank you for your consideration.